

SECURITY MESSAGE TO U.S. CITIZENS

Call for Protest on Sunday, July 20, 2014 in Rabat / Moroccan Government Security Alert

In response to recent developments in Gaza, several political parties and human rights organizations have called for a demonstration in downtown Rabat to voice support for the Palestinians. Participants are expected to number in the tens of thousands. News reports indicate that some demonstrators will be critical of U.S. policy in the region. The demonstration is expected to begin in Bab El Had around 12:00 noon and follow a route through Centre Ville along Avenue Hassan II, past Parliament House and the train station, and conclude around 15:00 hrs. This route is frequently used by demonstrators and is generally well controlled by police and security services.

Though we expect the demonstration to be peaceful, even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. If you should happen upon a traffic jam, be aware that it could be related to the demonstration and we recommend that you try to turn around or take another route before becoming ensnared. If you find yourself in the midst of a demonstration, we recommend maintaining a low profile and departing the area.

U.S. Mission Morocco would also like to inform U.S. citizens in Morocco that in the past week the Ministry of Interior has publically announced an increased alert based on a potential threat of terrorism in Morocco

The terrorism threat remains a serious concern for U.S. citizens traveling to Morocco. The U.S. Mission in Morocco would like to remind all U.S. citizens in Morocco to remain attentive to their surroundings and conduct good security practices such as avoiding predictable travel patterns and maintaining a low profile. The U.S. Mission Morocco recommends U.S. citizens to avoid large public gatherings, as even events intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. Establishments that are readily identifiable with the United States or other Western countries are potential targets. These may include facilities where U.S. citizens and other foreigners congregate, including clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, hotels, movie theaters and other public areas. U.S. citizens in Morocco are urged to monitor local news reports and to plan their activities accordingly.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Morocco enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. U.S. citizens are also encouraged to visit our website at: <http://morocco.usembassy.gov>.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Internet website at travel.state.gov where the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Country Specific Information](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and [Travel Alerts](#) can be found. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. In addition to information on the internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, from other countries, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Rabat is located at 2 Avenue Mohamed El Fassi and can be reached at 0537-76-22-65. Consular Services are located at the U.S. Consulate General in Casablanca at 8 Blvd. Moulay Youssef. American Citizens Services can be reached at 0522-26-71-51 during business hours. After hours, please call 0522-26-45-50 or 0661-13-19-39.